



www.flatheadcitizens.org

To: Flathead County Planning Board
October 20, 2010

Considerations for updates to the Flathead County Growth Policy should include:

Greater protection for water quality. Recent efforts by professionals who make their living providing services to the developers to weaken existing water quality standards in the county growth policy as seen in the proposed changes they are recommending to the county commissioners for the subdivision regulations are not support by available science. This includes current growth policy limits to development in areas where ground water is eight feet or less and to polices that call for protection of water bodies and rivers and streams through setbacks and studies demonstrating that water quality will not be impacted. We ask the County Planning Board and the County Commissioners not to weaken existing protections for water quality, but to strengthen them.

Greater support for conserving our prime agricultural lands.

Greater support for conserving wildlife habitat and access to public lands.

Increase support for directing growth toward existing towns and preventing highway oriented strip development and rural sprawl. Remind them we can't afford the costs and taxes that result from a sprawling pattern of development.

Adoption of the completed professionally done study and new Flathead County Transportation Plan, which has been for unknown reasons ignored.

These improvements to help ensure that the Flathead remains a special place in these difficult economic times so that businesses will want to invest and locate here and increase new job opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mayre Flowers
Executive Director

